

it promoted him to the rank of major on February 1.

Born in my hometown of Miami, Florida, and raised in Mineral Wells, Texas, Trent graduated from Texas Christian University, where he earned a degree in business administration and an Army commission. During his congressional assignment, he earned a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery Branch, Trent has served at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, and in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his career in our proud military, Trent has earned many accolades, including the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

It is my distinct pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with Major Colestock's family, friends, and peers as they honor his promotion and the many accomplishments of his outstanding service to our Nation.

□ 1215

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL RADIO AND REINTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the significant benefits and services that our local radio stations provide to our communities.

I cannot say enough about the benefits local radio provides constituents in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Local radio provides AMBER Alerts, local news, weather, and critical emergency alerts, which we all know too well along the gulf coast we need. In addition to the public service, radio provides entertainment and music free to the public.

For nearly 90 years, Congress has recognized this fact and has not imposed performance fees on local radio stations. That is why I am pleased to reintroduce, along with my fellow Texan, Congressman MIKE CONAWAY, the Local Radio Freedom Act, H. Con. Res. 17.

Our simple resolution simply states that Congress should not impose any performance taxes or fees for playing over-the-air music and keep local radio free. Last week's introduction with 93 cosponsors, over 20 percent of the full House, shows the strong commitment Congress has to protect local radio and all the benefits it provides our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the original cosponsors of this resolution and thank local radio for serving our communities.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Truman had a plaque on his desk that said, "The buck stops here." Many veterans are probably wondering why this old poker expression doesn't apply to the VA. However, on Monday the House passed H.R. 280, which gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to make sure the bucks do stop on back bonuses given to management of the VA, which is very, very backlogged.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the House has acted, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to join this effort. It is clear that it is time to send a message to the VA that the days of rewarding subpar work and service for hidden and lost files or long waiting periods are over.

We need to continue to fight for commonsense reforms that will provide this type of system that our veterans deserve. At many regional offices of the VA around the country, including my own of Oakland, veterans have waited far too long to have their benefit claims processed and are struggling to access the care they need and deserve. There are countless examples of dysfunction, and the VA is falling short of its mission.

Does anyone actually think the VA deserves bonuses for failing our veterans when we have these long lists of people waiting for medical care, having their claims serviced? No, I think not. Mr. Speaker, the VA bonus bucks stop here.

REMEMBERING REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, CSC

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is the funeral for one of the most influential figures in higher education, the Catholic Church, and domestic and international affairs: Father Theodore Hesburgh. He served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, in that time taking a small Catholic college and transforming it into a world renowned institution.

During his career he was granted 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person. This Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal in the year 2000, becoming the first figure from higher education to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. He was also appointed by both Democratic and Republican Presidents to 16 Presidential commissions, ranging from atomic weapons policy to immigration, to civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be a graduate of the Hesburgh Program in Public Service and hope to be able to live up to that awesome example he set.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of four high-tech fields that are dominating the digital age. The fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, commonly referred to as STEM, are driving our Nation's innovation and competition, generating new ideas, industries, and companies.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to tour the University of New Hampshire's InterOperability Laboratory to see just how important the STEM field is to the Granite State. The InterOperability Lab is the only full-service, nonprofit test lab in the world that provides both industry expertise and real-world training for our Nation's future STEM workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress continues to advocate on behalf of the STEM fields because the demand for individuals with these backgrounds and education only continue to grow. In fact, the Office of Science and Technology Policy estimates that STEM jobs will grow almost two times faster than non-STEM jobs from 2008 to 2018. We must ensure R&D continues in these fields.

FUNDING DHS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express relief that Congress has funded the Department of Homeland Security. We averted an unnecessary and harmful crisis. We should not have reached a point where the Department was on the brink of a shutdown.

The Department of Homeland Security was created after the devastating September 11 terrorist attacks and performs vital functions to protect Americans against ongoing terrorist threats. We are talking about FEMA, which responds to emergencies and disasters; TSA, which makes flying safer; the Secret Service; Customs and Border Protection; and other important services.

The Coast Guard, which patrols our waters and helps protect communities like mine near the Port of Los Angeles, is also a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We must do even more to improve port security, and shutting down the Department would have been a step backwards.

We must stop the crisis-to-crisis governing around here. The American people deserve better than this sort of political brinksmanship.

CONGRATULATING MIDLAND MARKETING COOPERATIVE

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Midland Marketing Cooperative, located in Hays, Kansas, which celebrates their 100th anniversary in business on March 5 of this year.

Midland started with 81 farmers, who put up a total of \$10,000 to begin capitalizing their new cooperative. Since that time, the co-op has grown to nearly 1,000 members and has over \$122 million in annual sales. They now operate 11 elevator locations, 2 full-service gas stations, 5 automated fueling stations, 2 feed mills, and 10 agronomy locations. In their five-county service area, Midland employs 62 full-time employees. When you add part-time and seasonal workers, that increases to 120 people. Midland Marketing Cooperative has returned over \$62 million in patronage to their members.

Thank you to Midland Marketing Cooperative and all the co-ops in my district who are keeping Kansas agriculture and our rural communities strong.

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A POSTAL STAMP

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bipartisan resolution that would honor the Selma to Montgomery marches with a commemorative stamp.

I thank the 102 bipartisan House Members who cosponsored this resolution, and the original sponsors: Congressman BYRNE, Congressman HURD, and Congresswoman SEWELL.

The Selma voting rights march was a pivotal moment in our history that brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery County 50 years ago. This stamp celebrates the march and reminds us to protect voting rights.

For 125 years the United States Postal Service has been issuing stamps to celebrate cultural milestones in the unique history of our Nation. Surely the protection of voting rights is a landmark development in our Nation's development. It is my hope that, as we remember the struggles, discrimination, and inequalities, we will lift our hearts and unite to find bridges to equality and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members unite with me and ask the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for a hearing on this stamp.

HONORING JOHN FORKENBROCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY IMPACTED SCHOOLS

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the career of a man who was instrumental in education policy, Mr. John Forkenbrock. I have had the pleasure of working with John for the past 20 years, and he visited my home State of Hawaii twice during his time with the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, or NAFIS.

From 1988 to the present, John has served as executive director of NAFIS, an association representing over 1,400 public school districts. In that position, John oversaw major changes in the Impact Aid Program that were included in the 1994 ESEA Improving America's Schools Act, and again in 2000 and 2001 with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are all indebted to John's leadership. Millions of children in school districts across this Nation have benefited from his hard work.

Though he will be sorely missed at NAFIS, I wish John and Patty Forkenbrock the best in their retirement.

MARIJUANA LAWS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a bit of a dustup over D.C.'s new marijuana reform law. D.C. has never defied the Congress, although it has been tempting, especially several times when the Federal Government shut down, shutting down the District with it, although the District, of course, is no part of these disputes.

The majority language in the appropriation bill said that the District couldn't enact marijuana laws. The law was enacted before that language was passed. When approved by the voters, there was nothing further to be done. Small amounts of marijuana became legal in the District, smoked in private. On Thursday, D.C. has taken no further official action, and is in compliance with the law as passed by Congress.

The most important impetus for passage by residents was two independent studies that showed that virtually all of those who now carry marijuana arrests are young African Americans. That was the last straw for a substance that is de facto legal for most Americans.

D.C. passage is neutral on its face. It doesn't recommend the substance. We ought to have the same liberty other Americans already enjoy on this substance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN HERO, CAPTAIN DWIGHT BAZILE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Houston has lost a firefighter in the line of duty, the State of Texas has lost a first responder, but America has lost a hero.

Mr. Speaker, today I pause to honor a hero. Captain Dwight Bazile, 57 years of age, firefighter for 37 years, promoted to captain in 2008, father to Dwight Bazile II, son of Charlotte Fielder, husband to Pamela Bazile, died in the line of duty February 21, 2015.

I ask that we have a moment of silence for a hero who died in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING THE DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my Delta Sigma Theta sisters.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority was founded in January 1913 at Howard University by 22 brave young women. They sought to promote academic excellence, to provide scholarships, to support the underserved, to educate and stimulate participation in the formation of positive public policy, and to highlight issues with recommended solutions for problems in our communities.

Since its founding, it has distinguished itself as a public service organization that boldly confronts the challenges of African American women and all Americans. The women of Delta Sigma Theta continue to push for many of these same issues. In fact, they were at the confirmation hearing of Loretta Lynch, also a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

They will be in Selma, along with many Members of Congress and the administration, for the annual pilgrimage. This journey allows us to visit not only the sites of the civil rights movement, but to hear firsthand the stories of hope that emerged from the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, this month 102 years ago, the women of Delta Sigma Theta marched in the historic suffragette march as the first public act. This weekend I will join my sorors again, my congressional colleagues, as we cross the bridge to show how we must continue to work, and we still have work to do.

□ 1230

ENSURE BORINQUENEERS RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, last year, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto